

Inmate Health Care

Connecticut Department of Correction The University of Connecticut/Correctional Managed Health Care A Public Partnership 2006

The Connecticut Department of Correction in partnership with the University of Connecticut Health Center is committed to providing the offender population with access to a community standard of clinically appropriate care that is efficient and cost effective in its delivery. The appropriation for these services for Fiscal Year 2006 is \$86.7-million to cover a population of more than 19,500 inmates.

The offender population as a whole is proportionately sicker than the general population on virtually any measure of mental illness and chronic and communicable diseases including tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and C, drug and alcohol addiction, STDs, hypertension, etc. The Connecticut Department of Correction is one of only six such agencies in the country, which also runs the jails, which experience a high intake rate of offenders with active health issues. Each of the 36,000 annual intakes receives a medical evaluation and suicide screening.

Through Correctional Managed Health Care, the state's largest medical care provider, Connecticut inmates receive medical, mental health, pharmacy and dental services at 18 correctional facilities and 45 DOC contracted halfway houses from nearly 700 full time equivalent staff. A 12-bed correctional inpatient unit at UConn's John Dempsey Hospital attends to the most serious needs. CMHC also provides treatment to sex offenders at six facilities

On an average day 3,500 prescriptions are filled, 565 inmates are seen at sick call, 140 inmates are in infirmary beds and nine inmates are under care at the inpatient unit. The number of inmates on medications increased 34 percent between January 1999 and June 2005.

During the last fiscal year, there were 12,279 inmate visits for health care at DOC facilities. Dentists saw 32,772 visits ranging from routine exams to oral surgeries. There were 110,626 visits to social workers, psychologists and psychiatric nurse clinicians with another 30,329 visits to psychiatrists.

Both medical and mental health services have recently been consolidated across the agency to improve both the delivery and efficiency of services.

CMHC also provides annual tuberculosis screening, Hepatitis B and flu vaccinations to the 7,000 employees of the Department of Correction.